

# National Congress Bulletin



Y 1959 • PUBLISHED BY THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS • CHICAGO 11 • VOL. 26, NO. 9

Dear P.T.A. President:

WERE to be granted one wish, fairyland fashion, it would be that your own P.T.A. this year had achieved some vitally important thing for children or youth, or for both—something that you feel is a genuine contribution to their present and future welfare. If this wish, without benefit of fancy, has been fulfilled as an outgrowth of your own efforts added to those of other members in your association, no one can question that your P.T.A. is serving its prime purpose. For this I am deeply indebted to you and the P.T.A. members, for yours is a better community for children and youth which all of us seek.

If you are now almost an "immediate past-president," I hope you will in your heart pledge to support your successor promptly and unobtrusively in his efforts to bring into reality better surroundings for boys and girls. If you are a newly elected president, I hope you will thoughtfully study the objects of the P.T.A. and prepare now to use all the talent, ability, experience, and energy in your organization to achieve related goals that you and your members decide upon.

I see infinite possibilities for accomplishment. Homes must be made stronger and more influential in shaping the balanced personalities of children who come from them, for the home

is the strongest influence for good—or for ill—that touches boys and girls. Please look thoughtfully at your homes, and define what your P.T.A. can do to help them grow in capacity to strengthen family relationships. Soon you should be receiving your copy of our new Action Program booklet, "Strengthening the Home, Source of Our Nation's Greatness," which will be extremely helpful in this endeavor.

» With the help of your school administrators, you might also consider your schools—to discover their needs and plan ways to meet them. To aid you, there is our own publication "Looking In on Your School."

» Study your community, too, and with enlightened minds determine which opportunities of the many a community can offer are needed and are within reach of your own community. Then you will be able to devote P.T.A. energies to help the community secure some of the facilities it lacks.

» Now I want to tell you about some recent experiences that have been mine, hoping they will give you, too, a feeling of the vitality and stability of the organization to which we devote our efforts. Four state congress conventions followed in quick succession, three of them celebrating fifty years of belonging to the National Congress. Jubilee conventions they were, with meetings devoted to tributes to the past, evaluations of the present, and dedications to the future. As you may know, it is customary for the national president to share in these heart-warming excursions into history and in the pledges for tomorrow. The states—Mississippi, Wisconsin, and Rhode Island—had individual ways of marking the event, but in essence they were of one accord in touching devotion to the welfare of children and faith that the P.T.A., for all its size and variation, can make perceptible contributions to this noble cause.

» Contrast these fifty-year spans of experience, please, with that of Alaska, holding its second convention. But "contrast" is hardly the correct word to use in relation to this new state congress. For in the exciting state of Alaska, despite the fact that some problems of organization are yet to be solved, distances to be conquered, and methods suitable to the situation to be evolved, one feels the same certain faith that the P.T.A. is an instrument by which children and youth can be helped to face with confidence an unpredictable world. I wish you might all have shared this experience with me.

Sincerely yours,

*Karlar. Parker*

MRS. JAMES C. PARKER, President  
National Congress of Parents and Teachers



» At the Mississippi Congress' golden jubilee convention. With Mrs. Parker as she studies the convention program are (left) Mrs. L. W. Alston, former secretary of the National Congress, and Mrs. J. Earl Rhea, preschool service chairman of the Mississippi Congress.



## THE P.T.A. GROWS ON

AS IN MOST YEARS since 1897, when the National Congress was organized, P.T.A. service this past year was strengthened because more P.T.A. members were sharing their concern for children and youth—498,749 more than the year before! This astounding growth is only 1,251 short of the half-million goal—a goal that would have been more than reached, Mrs. Milton L. Wiener, National Congress Membership chairman, tells us, if all membership figures had been received at the National Office in time to meet the April 15 deadline.

The total membership as of April 15 was a gratifying 11,516,905! P.T.A.'s can indeed be proud of their determined efforts to achieve this continued growth and thus open the way for even greater service to children and youth.

The figures in the adjoining column tell this year's stirring membership story. The four states securing the highest increases in membership were California (83,098), Texas (41,817), New Jersey (30,454), and New York (30,415).

Percentagewise, the European Congress of American Parents and Teachers, the most recently organized branch, showed the greatest gain—a spectacular 246 per cent. The Alaska Congress was next, with an increase of 26 per cent. Sixteen other congresses increased their totals by more than 5 per cent.

Referring to the tremendous increase in P.T.A. memberships in the last sixty years, Mrs. James C. Parker, national president, said in her Membership Proclamation last fall, "This growth has come about, and will inevitably continue, because we are a voluntary organization, striving toward goals that mean much to every American: the best possible homes, schools, communities—the best possible world."

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## MEMBERSHIPS AS OF APRIL 15, 1959

Alabama .....	204,475
Alaska .....	11,319
Arizona .....	80,888
Arkansas .....	126,459
California .....	1,756,925
Colorado .....	165,668
Connecticut .....	152,197
Delaware .....	32,726
District of Columbia .....	44,646
European Congress of American Parents and Teachers .....	24,684
Florida .....	332,859
Georgia .....	253,351
Hawaii .....	81,934
Idaho .....	52,130
Illinois .....	684,323
Indiana .....	254,384
Iowa .....	153,388
Kansas .....	198,856
Kentucky .....	193,858
Louisiana .....	108,962
Maine .....	29,201
Maryland .....	189,676
Massachusetts .....	148,790
Michigan .....	379,588
Minnesota .....	252,231
Mississippi .....	87,076
Missouri .....	248,623
Montana .....	26,753
Nebraska .....	68,310
Nevada .....	23,426
New Hampshire .....	26,363
New Jersey .....	454,270
New Mexico .....	45,174
New York .....	525,793
North Carolina .....	358,936
North Dakota .....	46,256
Ohio .....	725,435
Oklahoma .....	178,587
Oregon .....	130,491
Pennsylvania .....	569,860
Rhode Island .....	54,679
South Carolina .....	100,233
South Dakota .....	37,023
Tennessee .....	320,756
Texas .....	673,023
Utah .....	111,902
Vermont .....	20,755
Virginia .....	262,645
Washington .....	221,507
West Virginia .....	113,995
Wisconsin .....	143,139
Wyoming .....	15,638
Unorganized areas .....	12,739
Total .....	11,516,905



## All in a Child's Lifetime

► *National Parent-Teacher: The P.T.A. Magazine* announces the topics for its 1959-60 study-discussion programs on parent and family life education, grouped under the title given above.

### Right from the Start PRESCHOOL COURSE

It's Time To Talk  
Is Nursery School a Must?  
You and TV: End of the First Round  
Social Security for Preschoolers  
How To Behave When Children Misbehave  
The Creative Child  
How Accident-Prone Is Your Child?  
He's Ready for School—Are You?

### A Program for "His Excellency" SCHOOL-AGE COURSE

How Good Is Ability Grouping?  
Junior-sized Jitters  
Promotions: Automatic or Earned?  
When Children Stall or Go into Reverse  
Work Habits Worth Having  
Healthy—and Irritating—Signs of Independence  
How Much Can Children Learn About Human Behavior?  
Conditioning for College

### Days of Discovery ADOLESCENT COURSE

What Kind of Parents Will Today's Teen-agers Be?  
Adolescents and the Automobile  
Is There a Morals Revolt Among Youth?  
How Adolescent Are Parents?  
What Teen-agers Are Scared Of  
A Generation Lies Between  
Liberal Education Can't Wait for College  
Let's Enlist Youth for Civic Service

### National Parent-Teacher Subscription Rates

\$1.50 a year—U.S. and possessions  
\$1.75 a year—Canada  
\$2.00 a year—Other countries



## Leisure Is for Living

WITH SUMMER coming along soon, Leon G. Green, National Congress chairman of the Committee on Recreation, reminds us that we should be doing more thinking and talking about leisure and its use.

Dr. Green points out that what children do during their leisure minutes and hours has as much bearing on their growth and development as what they learn in school. This same idea is stressed in the National Congress' Statement of Principles as one of the eleven principles that "must be practiced if every child is to have an opportunity to live a full life, satisfying to himself and useful to his community. . . . We believe that the worthy and satisfying use of leisure plays a significant role in the wholesome development of children and youth."

Any child, Dr. Green says, has a tremendous amount of spare time, and almost from the beginning he has to make lively choices, many of them without benefit of adult supervision. How well he learns to handle these early situations will have great bearing on how wise he will be in making constructive use of leisure during the rest of his lifetime.

With more automation and shorter working hours, adults now have more time on their hands and more decisions to make about its use—a situation that is likely to be even more marked when today's children become workers. No longer is leisure viewed as time for idleness or mere cessation of work, but rather as *opportunity* to take up activities that fulfill needs for self-expression and enrich life both physically and mentally. When this positive approach is applied, leisure offers rewarding opportunities for such meaningful activities as continued education, participation in civic affairs, reading, community service, developing personal skills, energizing nature.

To set up a constructive pattern for children and youth, Dr. Green tells us, is important to surround them with wholesome recreational opportunities. Though much of this responsibility rests in the home, "Source of Our Nation's Greatness," it is shared and supplemented by the church, the school, and the community.

Dr. Green feels that P.T.A.'s have an important role in promoting and improving recreation interests of children and youth—creating awareness of the

## AT THE ALASKA CONGRESS CONVENTION



• At the Alaska Congress convention, leis from sunny Hawaii (a gift of the Hawaii Congress) presented a striking contrast to the parkas of Alaska. Here Mrs. James M. Orr, Jr., newly elected Alaska Congress president, watches as Mrs. John Horning, retiring president, places a lei on Mrs. Parker.

© M/Sgt. Herbert H. Wolfe

MRS. JAMES C. PARKER, national president, represented the National Congress at the Alaska Congress' first convention since Alaska became our forty-ninth state. The convention, held in Anchorage April 15-16, had as its theme "The Child—in the New State."

Mrs. Parker spoke at the opening session and was the main speaker at the banquet that brought the convention to a close. The banquet address she gave was centered on her administration theme.

One of the outstanding features of the convention was a symposium on

impact of leisure on their growth and development and sparking action to fulfill their needs. Because this responsibility varies from community to community and from home to home, Dr. Green suggests that at least one P.T.A. meeting be set up for the purpose of discussing needs in the area and what to do about them.

As a basis for this meeting and for further action, both in the home and in the community, P.T.A. members will find timely and invaluable help in the new Action Program booklet, *Strengthening the Home, Source of Our Nation's Greatness*. In it are numerous suggestions for evaluating needs and for projects that can be keyed to individual family groups and community situations.

In his proclamation for the 1959 National Youth Fitness Week (May 3-9), President Eisenhower said: "Our young people must be physically as well as mentally and spiritually prepared for American citizenship."

"Educating the Child in the New State." Speakers were Arnold Granville of the Alaska Department of Education; Charles Anderson, formerly chief psychiatrist for the Alaska Department of Health and now director of psychiatric services at the Hinsdale Sanitarium and Hospital, Hinsdale, Illinois; and Elmer Rasmuson, president of the University of Alaska Board of Regents.

Mrs. Parker found the new state an exciting, hospitable place to visit. She reports: "The whole atmosphere of Alaska is really electric. The scenery is beautiful, and the spirit of adventure truly refreshing."

## YOU ASKED FOR IT!

• In response to many requests, *National Parent-Teacher* plans to inaugurate a new service for its readers—"Estimates of TV Programs for Children." This department, which will make its debut in the September issue, will bring parents a sound, reliable, and interesting digest of current TV offerings, listed and evaluated by an experienced group of reviewers.

In conducting this service for the American family the *National Parent-Teacher* will have the dependable counsel of a committee of experts including Frances Horwich (Miss Frances of Ding Dong School) and Paul Witty, director of the psychoeducational clinic at Northwestern University.

With the help of *National Parent-Teacher's* "Estimates of TV Programs for Children," parents will be better able to steer their children away from the influence of shoddy and objectionable TV programs and toward programs that are wholesome and worthwhile.



# READY FOR ACTION?

## Check Your P.T.A. Bookshelf Now!

AS YOUR UNIT starts its plans for launching the new Action Program in your community, be sure to satisfy yourself that your P.T.A. bookshelf holds all the reference material you'll need in the months ahead. The various Congress publications referred to in the new Action Program pamphlet will provide generous help for you in determining the needs of children, youth, and adults and in setting up projects to meet those needs.

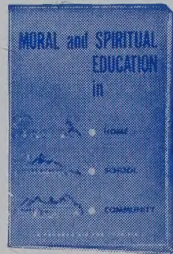
Although *National Parent-Teacher* and *Guiding Children as They Grow* are important as references for the Action Program, other Congress publications, too, are invaluable sources of dependable, practical information to help you in implementing the administration theme, "Strengthening the Home, Source of Our Nation's Greatness." Here are brief descriptions of some of the publications that you will want on your bookshelf.

Congress publications may be ordered from your state congress or from the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, 700 North Rush Street, Chicago 11, Illinois.

• **Guiding Children as They Grow.** This handy paperback, made up of selected articles from *National Parent-Teacher*, the official P.T.A. magazine, brings together a wealth of information and insight concerning child guidance and many suggestions for using that knowledge in home, school, and community. **\$1.00.**

• **Junior Hi-Ways.** Here is program and project material for the junior high school P.T.A., as well as brief, to-the-point comments on "tween-ager" needs. **25 cents.**

• **Looking In on Your School: Questions To Guide P.T.A. Fact Finders.** An indispensable aid for P.T.A.'s who want to initiate a school-improvement study in their communities, this booklet provides sharply focused questions designed to reveal the essential facts about a school. **35 cents.**



• **Moral and Spiritual Education in Home, School, and Community.** A thorough presentation of the views of parents, educators, and youth leaders on how moral and spiritual values may be emphasized and made vividly meaningful to young people. **25 cents.**

• **New Hope for Audiences.** A sprightly discourse on livening up meetings and involving every member of the audience in a give-and-take of ideas. **40 cents.**

• **Parents and Teachers as Partners.** An illuminating pamphlet that sheds light on many of the obstacles to understanding between parent and teacher and suggests workable ways of overcoming them. **60 cents.**

• **Signals for Safety.**

This sixty-four page pamphlet is packed with information on safety measures for home, school, and community. Includes outlines for parent-teacher safety projects as well as a helpful reading list. **50 cents.**

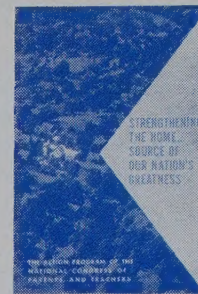


• **Study-Discussion Group Techniques for Parent Education Leaders.** Group leaders will find here much valuable information on how to organize and maintain study-discussion groups, conduct programs, and make the best possible use of community resources. **25 cents.**

• **What P.T.A. Members Should Know About Juvenile Delinquency.** A widely acclaimed booklet that brings P.T.A. members a readable digest of current knowledge about juvenile delinquency, complete with many suggestions for effective, intelligent P.T.A. action. **50 cents.**

• **Working with Youth Through the High School P.T.A.** This handbook offers guidance on developing a lively high school P.T.A. that will be of genuine service to youth, their parents, teachers, school, and community. **40 cents.**

• **The Digest** of addresses and discussions heard at the National Congress convention in Denver, May 17-20, will offer substantial help with the Action Program. Each voting delegate and other P.T.A. member who registers at the convention will receive a copy.



## ACTION PROGRAM PAMPHLET

► The release of the new Action Program pamphlet at the national convention this month will put into the hands of P.T.A. members a reliable guide for implementing the administration theme, "Strengthening the Home, Source of Our Nation's Greatness."

This Action Program, according to Mrs. James C. Parker, National Congress president, is "a twofold program: It is a take-home program for individual action in the home; it is a co-operative program for collective action in the community."

In the 44-page publication P.T.A. members will find a survey of the individual needs at various stages in the life cycle and P.T.A. projects to help fulfill these needs.

## INSTALLMENT-PLAN SAVING

• **United States Savings Bonds and Stamps** not only earn money for the buyer but, at the same time, they help keep America strong.

The 1959 Savings Bonds program emphasizes the concept of *installment-plan saving* in order to put to work, for the good of self and country, dimes and dollars that might otherwise be used aimlessly.

With the recent issuance of a new twenty-five cent Savings Stamp, the U.S. Treasury Department is calling attention anew to the part U.S. Savings Stamps play in encouraging systematic thrift. Since May 1941 Savings Stamps have been exchangeable for Series E Savings Bonds. In that period more than nine billion individual Savings Stamps, worth almost two billion dollars, have been purchased by school children and adults.

**PLEASE NOTE:** If you live in an area where mail is routed through the post office of a large city, please include the name of that city on all communications to the National Congress—subscriptions to "National Parent-Teacher," orders for other Congress publications, letters, et cetera.



## LET'S ALL HELP Keep America Beautiful

EACH YEAR millions of tax dollars have to be spent for removing litter from rural highways, not to mention all the additional dollars needed for cleaning up towns and cities. Although Americans enthusiastically sing "America the Beautiful," they're thoughtlessly defacing their country's natural beauty, contributing to unhealthy and unsafe conditions, and forcing the expenditure of funds that might otherwise be used to better advantage.

Because this is a vast national problem that calls for national action, America has an anti-litter team, the Keep America Beautiful National Advisory Council, which is composed of fifty-five national civic and public service organizations (including the National Congress) and ten agencies of four federal government departments. At a recent meeting of the Council, delegates placed public education, legislation, and enforcement high on the list of effective weapons against litter, and agreed that a successful prevention program requires the interest and active cooperation of *every organized group and every citizen* in the community. It was pointed out in particular that young people usually are most effective as anti-litter crusaders in a community and that attempts should be made to relate programs to their interests.

Today every trip to the store yields paper bags, cartons, cans, bottles, and other waste materials, all of which are tossed about to turn streets and countryside into unsightly scenes and safety hazards. Hence the need for local action is essential. Project ideas for groups that want to encourage and implement such action are as varied as are their communities, but they may secure help that can be easily localized from Keep America Beautiful, Inc., 99 Park Avenue, New York 16, New York.

Our everyday responsibilities in keeping America clean and beautiful might be summed up in this Beautify Greater Dallas Association anti-litter pledge: "I pledge to help make and keep my community more clean and neat; not to throw trash, wrappers, and things onto floors, sidewalks, or lanes; to protect all property from litterbug harm; not to toss items out of the car. All these things I pledge to help keep America more beautiful."

## National LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

• January 31, 1959–May 1, 1959 •

*Show this list to friends whose names appear here. What other citizens in your community deserve to share this spotlight?*

IT IS again a pleasure to welcome into Honorary National Life Membership those who have received this high honor recently. Since January 31 (cutoff date for names that appeared in the February *Bulletin*), seventy-one persons have been thus honored.

Because proceeds from these Memberships increase the Endowment Fund and the interest on the Fund is used to extend parent-teacher work, every Membership listed here represents a significant contribution to the welfare of children and youth.

MRS. NEWTON P. LEONARD  
*A Director of the Endowment Fund  
National Congress of Parents and Teachers*

• • •

**California:** Mrs. W. Ray Ashdown, Hawthorne; Mrs. Edna Barr, Yreka; Mrs. Ernest Blenkhorn, Santa Monica; Dr. J. Davis Conner, Sacramento; Mrs. Ralph S. Doscher, San Francisco; Mrs. Leonard Fier, Culver City; Helen French, San Diego; Leslie W. Hedge, Bakersfield; John M. Hiler, San Mateo; Vernon Hinze, Long Beach; Mrs. Truman Kimball, Woodland Hills; Dr. Hans W. Koolen, Palo Alto; Mrs. J. Stuart Moore, Stockton; Jack R. Singer, Culver City; John T. Warburton, La Mesa; Mrs. Helen H. Williams, Turlock

**Colorado:** Mrs. Louis H. Hammel, Canon City

**District of Columbia:** President and Mrs. Dwight D. Eisenhower

**Illinois:** Paul S. Conklin, Rockford; Lester J. Grant, Decatur; Mrs. Edward Ruwe, Mount Pulaski

**Iowa:** Mrs. Herman Heinsen, Clinton

**Louisiana:** Mrs. James A. Bourg, Lafayette; Mrs. James W. Hamilton, Lake Charles; Mrs. W. C. McDaniel, Shreveport; Mrs. W. B. Myrick, Baton Rouge; Mrs. Charles M. Robards, Jefferson Parish

**Massachusetts:** Mrs. Richard E. Rolls, Belmont; Mrs. Gwen Woods, East Natick

**Mississippi:** Mrs. Velma S. Nation, Columbus

**Missouri:** Mrs. Ruth Roberts Kempton, Kansas City; Dr. Earl D. Thomas, Kansas City; Mrs. Waldo C. Trampe, St. Louis

**Nebraska:** J. Arthur Nelson, Omaha; Mrs. George Robertson, Omaha



• The National Life Membership pin, as magnified by the photographer.

**New York:** Mrs. Robert Dygert, Gouverneur; Mrs. Warren D. Horton, Troy; Mrs. Bernice Lamoreaux, Orchard Park; Dr. Raymond H. Ostrander, Williston Park, L.I.; Thomas O. Treharne, North Troy

**North Carolina:** Tarvia Jones, Graham

**Ohio:** Mrs. Harry Birtcher, Dover; Mrs. Elmer James, Alliance

**Oregon:** Mrs. Leigh Gustison, Medford

**South Carolina:** Mrs. J. A. Henry, Greenville

**Tennessee:** Mrs. William H. Highers, Hermitage

**Texas:** Mrs. C. A. Adams, Houston; Mrs. Marvin Armstrong, Lubbock; Mrs. E. Baechtel, Cayuga; Mrs. Marvin Burrus, Wichita Falls; Herman E. Charles, El Paso; Carl S. Chilton, Port Lavaca; Mrs. H. C. Green, Water Valley; Mrs. J. M. Harper, Lubbock; Mrs. S. F. Jackson, Rockport; Mrs. G. H. Jordan, Galveston; Dr. H. M. Landrum, Houston; Mrs. Bill Leadbetter, Donna; Mrs. Austin M. Long, Waco; Dillard McCollum, San Antonio; Mildred McGhee, Borger; Everette A. Martin, Beaumont; N. B. Miller, La Marque; Mrs. Marguerite M. Quibedeaux, Galveston; Mrs. Louis Robinson, Paris; Mrs. Bob Tobin, Crane; Ray H. Whitley, Pecos; Mrs. Hermond Yarbrough, Texas City

**Virginia:** Mrs. Eva Guynn, Norfolk

**Germany:** Edward L. Treick, Augsburg



# COUNCILS IN ACTION...

P.T.A. SERVICES ARE UNITED THROUGH  
COUNCIL CONFERENCE AND COOPERATION

**Modesto Council • California •** A series of monthly conferences based on the National Congress pamphlet *Looking In on Your School: Questions To Guide P.T.A. Fact Finders* is being held by the council for the presidents of its twenty-three member units. The conferences, under the combined leadership of the superintendent of schools and Mrs. J. R. McGrath, council president, are giving presidents a better acquaintance with their school system. Reports Mrs. McGrath: "We are now on the third chapter and are enjoying it immensely. Attendance has been nearly perfect at all conferences."

**Montgomery County Council • Maryland •** The mathematics program of the Montgomery County schools has been under serious scrutiny by the council's mathematics curriculum study group of twenty members, fourteen of whom have had professional training in mathematics or allied sciences. The group has been carefully briefed by supervisors and teachers on mathematics instruction programs at elementary, junior, and senior high school levels. It has also studied the experimental programs in mathematics teaching now being carried on by the Universities of Maryland and Illinois. Recently the study group made a preliminary four-point report. In it were the group's reasons for supporting certain recommendations to strengthen the program of mathematics instruction, all of which might be accomplished without basic alterations in the curriculum.

**Oklahoma City Council • Oklahoma •**

An "Appreciation of Youth" program was put on by the council because its leaders felt that "too often the small minority of students who misbehave get the most attention." High school students in the city were presented at the program and given an opportunity to talk about projects being carried on in their schools.

**Dallas City Council • Texas •** Aiming to encourage young people to train for teaching, the council has set up a Future Teachers Scholarship Fund. Each year, with contributions from local units (165 of them in Dallas), memorial gifts, and honorary tokens, the council awards as many \$500 scholarships as there are funds available. High school seniors are asked to apply for the scholarships through their principals, each of whom may send in three applications.

The only requirement made of recipients is that they teach at least one year in the Texas public schools after completion of their pre-service education.

**Napa County Council • California •**

To keep fresh the memory of their hard work and accomplishments, some forty past presidents of units in Napa County that no longer exist (because of consolidation of schools) were invited by the council to be guests of honor at a special Founders Day program. The event was truly a homecoming for the twenty-six past presidents who were able to attend. Many of them, in the years since their service as local unit presidents, have gone on to become council and district presidents.

**Covington City Council • Kentucky •**

A question-and-answer program at the first meeting of the year gave those present at the council meeting an opportunity to study various phases of P.T.A. work. A panel of experts—former unit presidents currently serving on the board of managers of the sixth district—were on hand to instruct and to answer questions. New P.T.A. presidents found this discussion especially valuable, reports Mrs. A. Macdonald, council publicity chairman.

**Toledo Council • Ohio •**

Toledo residents were given a vivid picture of their school system's science and art program when they attended a "Youths' Arts and Science Exposition" sponsored by the council, with the cooperation of the Toledo public school administration. There they saw more than 200 displays and demonstrations, all chosen from regular classroom activities and covering such diverse subjects as photosynthesis, motors, water and the sea, masks, puppetry, sculpturing, and weaving. Teachers and students from Toledo's fifty-four elementary and seven high schools were on hand to discuss and demonstrate the exhibits.



© Richard Drouard

- Some 3,500 persons visited the arts and science exposition sponsored by the Toledo Council. Here third graders explain and demonstrate magnets and electricity.



**Moorhead City Council • Minnesota •**  
 Because the council believed the city needed full-time recreation leadership, it set up a committee to delve into the feasibility of having a director. The city budget and the recreation programs of fifteen other communities of comparable size were studied before the committee made its recommendation, which was that council units approve a resolution calling for a year-round, professionally trained recreation director. The resolution was approved unanimously by the six elementary school and the junior-senior high school units belonging to the council. Publicizing the city's need for a recreation director was the next step. This was accomplished as the committee worked with the Youth Conservation Committee, chamber of commerce, League of Women Voters, educators, and other youth workers. Result: Moorhead now has a full-time superintendent of recreation.

**Greenwich Council • Connecticut •**  
 Recognizing that the cost of living is a determining factor in attracting good teachers to the community—and keeping them—the council seeks to help new teachers find moderate-rental houses and apartments. Through the cooperation of local newspapers and the real estate board, the council calls for news of available quarters and draws up a list of the accommodations. New teachers are asked to fill out applications for housing, stating the amount of rent they feel they can pay. Accordingly, the council helps them locate the housing they want. In the first year of the project, 1957, the council received requests for assistance from 35 of 77 new teachers. Mrs. Richard H. Bruce, council president, says of the project: "Our teachers . . . said that this was the deciding factor in their choice of Greenwich as opposed to other nearby school systems."

**Prince George County Council • Maryland •**  
 The council received an "Award of Excellence" from Community School Improvement Awards, a nation-wide program that recognizes citizens' groups making outstanding efforts to improve their schools.

The award was given to the council for the publication (in cooperation with the county board of education) of *Your Guide to the Schools*, a handbook describing for the general public the organization and administration of education in the state and county.



© Air Force Photo

• Nearly 150 members of units belonging to the San Antonio, Texas, Council toured the USAF Language School for Allied Students at Lackland Air Force Base and got a firsthand look at modern equipment and methods used in teaching English. Here Instructor Norman E. Megeff demonstrates some of the school's teaching aids to Mrs. E. A. Pulaski (left), the council's audio-visual services chairman, and Mrs. Phillip L. Day, president of the Woodlawn P.T.A.

**Alexandria Council • Virginia •**  
 Another incident pointing up the long-time interest of P.T.A.'s in the quality of American education was cited recently by Martin P. Claussen, former president of the council. In 1957, prompted by the local school board's decision to study methods for improving public school instruction, the council drew up a "Checklist-Questionnaire on High School Academic Standards." The checklist asked thirty questions regarding matters still of public concern today, such as ability grouping, standards in the basic subjects, homework, report cards, and teaching conditions. Indicative of the interest aroused by the questionnaire was the fact that the Honorable Joel T. Broyhill, Representative from Virginia, gave it time in a session of the House of Representatives and had the complete document printed in the *Congressional Record*.

**All Councils • Indiana •**  
 Councils from all over Indiana were invited to send representatives to the first annual workshop of the Indiana School Public Relations Association. Designed to help those interested in interpreting the schools to the public, the one-day workshop presented six programs, one on the fundamentals of news writing and others on such topics as public relations for P.T.A.'s and public relations possibilities for large and small schools.

**Caseyville Township Council • Illinois •**  
 Last year the council devoted a portion of each meeting to "Talk-It-Over Time," a problem clinic where units' questions were discussed and their experiences pooled. For variation, an "Information Potluck" at one meeting gave P.T.A. members a chance to submit written questions. At another meeting a P.T.A. information quiz brought out a good many facts and cleared up some points of confusion.

With a panel of unit program chairmen discussing their past year's programs—both successes and failures—the council's April meeting last year served to evaluate P.T.A. programs. Program chairmen for the coming year, who were special guests, so much appreciated this help that the council plans to make this a yearly April feature.

## Lincoln Sesquicentennial

• This year, to celebrate the Lincoln Sesquicentennial around the world and around the calendar, the United States Information Agency is conducting programs in every nation it serves. A number of countries overseas have issued stamps to commemorate the birth in 1809 of our sixteenth president, and it's even possible that radio listeners on the far side of the Iron Curtain may hear the story of Lincoln ideals.

In the United States the usual February Lincoln's Birthday observances are being augmented each month by Lincoln Year events, speeches, exhibits, musical programs, radio and television features, and magazine and newspaper articles and editorials.

A number of Lincoln pamphlets may be obtained on request from the Lincoln Sesquicentennial Commission, Box 1959, Washington 25, D. C. A *Lincoln Handbook of Information* may be ordered from the Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C., for twenty cents.

## More "Hi Neighbor" Materials

• From the United States Committee for UNICEF comes an announcement of the addition of a book and a record to its "Hi Neighbor" series. Book and Record No. II offer folklore, songs, and dances from Brazil, Ghana, Israel, Japan, and Turkey. (Book and Record No. I covered Indonesia, Italy, Lebanon, Paraguay, and Uganda.) The books are \$1.00 each, and each record is \$3.00, with discounts for quantity orders. For more information, write to the U.S. Committee for UNICEF, United Nations, New York.



P.T.A.

BULLETIN

BRIEF ITEMS OF CURRENT INTEREST

BOARD

FOR AND ABOUT P.T.A.'S

- **TO HELP DETERMINE** future school building needs, the Worden Road Elementary, Lincoln, and other P.T.A.'s in Wickliffe, Ohio, are cooperating with the board of education in conducting a door-to-door, city-wide census and survey.
- **A "FOR MEN ONLY" MEETING** held by the Bertha A. Sternberger Elementary School P.T.A. (Greensboro, North Carolina) was attended by some 200 fathers, who heard a talk by the principal about lesson plans, the testing program, state requirements, and related subjects. After the open discussion, the fathers visited their children's classrooms, where teachers relayed more specific information and answered further questions. The evening was rounded off with a touch of good humor when fathers were shown pictures of themselves and "What My Daddy Looks Like" stories that had been painted and written by their children.
- **FOR ITS EFFORTS** to overcome general community indifference to school needs and problems, the program committee of the Judson Grove P.T.A. (Longview, Texas) received one of the five regional Community School Improvement Awards given in a nation-wide program each year to "citizens' councils." Success of the unit's project to inform citizens was evident when a bond issue for a new elementary school building, defeated in 1957, was overwhelmingly approved in 1958.
- **AN INCIDENT** of child molestation in the vicinity of the 81st Street School, Milwaukee, was reported by the principal, Vera Demand, to the school's P.T.A. Health and welfare and recreation chairmen were consulted as to available educational material on juvenile protection. As a result, the film *Dangerous Stranger* (mentioned in the article, "Safeguarding Children Against Molesters," by Alice Sowers, which appeared in the January 1955 *National Parent-Teacher* and is now a chapter in *Guiding Children as They Grow*) was rented and shown to children at school and to parents at a P.T.A. meeting. Pamphlets obtained from the sheriff's office also were distributed.
- **TO STIMULATE INTEREST** in the arts is the purpose of a series of children's programs sponsored by the Lafayette P.T.A. (Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania), in cooperation with the school. One program demonstrated classical and modern ballet and basic steps and positions as an introduction to ballet. Three films on art were shown in another program, and a concert, during which various instruments in the orchestra were described and demonstrated, was third in the series.
- **AN AFTER-PROM PARTY** that will live long in the memories of juniors and seniors of the Arlington (Illinois) High School was sponsored by local civic and social organizations, churches, and the P.T.A. After the prom, the youngsters boarded a special train, whose cars had been transformed into "ballrooms," and traveled slowly to George Williams College camp, arriving about six in the morning. There they went boating, swimming, golfing, or took part in other outdoor activities until early afternoon, when they boarded the home-bound train. Fulfilling its aim to keep prom-goers off the streets and safe from traffic accidents, the party reported only minor casualties: two skinned knees and one case of measles!



● On behalf of the program committee of the Judson Grove P.T.A. in Texas, the chairman, B. K. Thomas, accepts the Community School Improvement Award. Making the presentation is Mrs. Carter Taylor, president of the Texas State Committee on Public Education.